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**Wednesday – February 12, 2014 – 8:30am**  
**Conference Room 329**

**The House Committee on Health**

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: George Greene  
President & CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 2094 — Relating to Home Care Licensing**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 116 member organization that includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of long term care facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospice programs, as well as other healthcare organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide.

Home care agencies employ workers who assist a growing number of older adults and those with chronic illnesses or disabilities. Home care workers are referred to by a variety of job titles, including certified nursing assistants, care assistants, and home care aides. They make it possible for people with functional limitations to remain at home in a comfortable, familiar environment by providing a wide range of assistance with the activities of daily living. These activities include bathing, dressing, grooming, assisting with ambulation or transferring, toileting, feeding and providing assistance with self-medication. Home care workers also help with the daily living activities, including shopping, meal preparation, making medical appointments, transportation, laundry and housekeeping.

Because many elderly residents live alone and are often faced with declining mental and physical abilities, home care agencies are a critical resource in ensuring that Hawaii's kupuna are kept safe. Charged with such an important duty, the public must be assured that home care agencies are meeting minimum standards when delivering care. At present, at least twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia require licensure for home care agencies.

During the regular session of 2009, the legislature passed SB415 SD2 HD1 CD1, which was enacted as Act 21 in the first special session of 2009. The purpose of Act 21 is to require home care agencies to be licensed, and designates the Department of Health (DOH) as the home care licensing agency. DOH has collaborated with home care agencies, consumer advocates, and other stakeholders to draft

administrative rules needed to implement licensing. These draft rules are in the last stages of the approval process.

DOH intends that licensing fees charged to home care agencies be used to cover the administrative costs associated with licensing. Initial funding, however, in the amount of \$150,000 is needed to provide 1.0 FTE for DOH to staff and commence the licensing program so that the collection of fees may be initiated. DOH has estimated that licensing fees will cover the cost of the licensing program after the first year of its operation. And DOH fully intends to reimburse the general fund for the initial appropriation amount, making this measure budget neutral.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2094.

**HB2094**

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for HLT on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Esther Pascual	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 8:30 A.M.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

**LATE**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 2094 RELATING TO HOME CARE LICENSING**

Chair Belatti and Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2094 relating to home care licensing.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.